



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## SD TO DEDICATE TWO MORE FALLEN HERO BRIDGES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting two State Bridge Dedication Ceremonies later this month.

The first ceremony, honoring U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Gordon J. Lippman, will be held Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. (MT) at St. Rose of Lima Community Hall in Hill City (305 Pine Street). The Spring Creek Bridge on US HWY 16, near Hill City, will be dedicated to LTC Lippman.

LTC Lippman devoted his life to the United States Army, serving as a paratrooper during World War II, a company commander in the Korean War, and Executive Officer during the Vietnam War. He grew up in Lemmon, eventually moving to Hill City. On December 11, 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Lippman was serving as Executive Officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. On that day, Viet Cong snipers infiltrated his camp perimeter near Lai Khe, South Vietnam, and while LTC Lippman attempted to locate the snipers to direct defensive fire, he was shot and mortally wounded.

The second ceremony, honoring U.S. Army Specialist 5 John P. Beckers, will be held Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the VFW in Burke (Main Street). The Ponca Creek Bridge on SD HWY 47, near Burke, will be dedicated to SP5 Beckers.

Specialist Beckers distinguished himself by heroic actions on September 17, 1968, while serving with Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat operation, his unit came under intense enemy fire and sustained several casualties. With complete disregard for his own safety, he fearlessly braved the enemy shelling as he carried his wounded comrades to safety. Throughout the entire battle, Beckers continually exposed himself to the devastating enemy fire as he assisted his injured comrades. His valorous actions contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. On June 6, 1969, Beckers was killed by enemy action.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

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# MORRELL ASSUMES COMMAND OF SD NATIONAL GUARD

Brig. Gen. Mark R. Morrell was promoted to the rank of major general and assumed command of the South Dakota National Guard during the change of command ceremony held at the Monument Fine Arts Theater in Rapid City on Saturday, August 5.

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem officiated the ceremony.

"I've been incredibly impressed with General Morrell. How he has stepped forward into this position, makes his decisions, asks questions, and listens to so many of the briefings we've had. I'm thankful he's a leader who will listen to our soldiers and airmen, take their insight and wisdom, and use that to make the best decisions to protect them into the future." Noem stated.

Morrell is the SDNG's 23rd Adjutant General and assumed command from Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette who has served in the position since June 2019.

(Continued on next page.)



## MORRELL (CONTINUED)

"Together, we are the citizen warriors of the State of South Dakota. And you, the leaders of our state, communities, and nation, will continue to ensure that South Dakota is a beacon of hope and a place where the American dream can still become a tangible reality," said Morrell during the ceremony.

Morrell now commands nearly 4,200 South Dakota Air and Army National Guard men and women with 1,000 full-time federal and state employees. He is responsible for strategic planning, leader assignment, recruiting, training, equipping, mobilization, facilities, and public relations. He serves as a member of Gov. Noem's cabinet as the Adjutant General. In this capacity, he is responsible for ensuring the SDNG Soldiers and Airmen are trained and ready to respond to state and federal missions at any time.

"I'm confident that you will lead them with the same vigor as the adjutant Generals did before you and I know that our National Guard will continue to grow, to thrive and to succeed under your leadership. We have work to do. We have work to do to ensure that freedom is continuously secured for future generations," said Noem.

Morrell began his military service in May 1999 with the United States Air Force after graduating from South Dakota State University. He served 12 years on active duty before joining the South Dakota Air National Guard in November 2011. Morrell is a command pilot with over 3,000 flight hours, mainly in the F-16. He has completed deployments supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Maj. Gen. Morrell has a bachelor's degree in Biology from South Dakota State University and a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from the Sioux Falls Seminary. He is also a graduate of the Air War College in Birmingham, AL.

Morrell has held multiple leadership positions in the SD Air National Guard, including 114th Fighter Wing Commander, 114th Operations Group Commander, and 114th Operation Support Squadron Commander at Joe Foss Field. Before being selected as the Adjutant General, his previous assignment was the Deputy Chief of Staff.



# SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

In support of our veterans, military personnel, and their families, the South Dakota State Fair offers numerous events throughout the week honoring our heroes.

The Fair will host a “Salute to Veterans” program on the Northwestern Energy Freedom Stage at 10:30 am on Thursday, August 31. Major General (Ret) Tim Reisch and Elsie Van Beek will serve as the keynote speakers. All veterans and military personnel will receive free gate admission on that day.

Reisch has dedicated his life to public service, serving as sheriff of Miner County, deputy secretary and secretary of the South Dakota Department of Corrections, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, veterans service officer in Miner County, and a state legislator in District 8.

Elsie Van Beek is the only teenager to single-handedly raise \$85,000 for sponsorship of a Midwest Honor Flight.

On Friday, September 1, fairgoers are encouraged to wear red in support of our deployed troops. We would like everyone in red to meet at the Northwestern Energy Freedom Stage at 1:30 pm to take a group photo. That photo will be sent to the troops.

Throughout the week of the Fair (August 31-September 4), fairgoers are welcome to stop in at the Prostrullo Motors Building, located just west of Flag Avenue and 2nd Street, and sign “thank you” banners for the troops. After the Fair, the signs will be sent to several South Dakota National Guard Units: the 109th Regional Support Group, the 1/112th Aviation, and the 216th Fire Fighters.

Staff from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be at the fair all week. Look for us in the Expo Building at booth #5A. The SDDVA team will be manning the booth from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm Thursday through Sunday and from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday. Our staff will be able to update veterans on state and federal benefits, programs, and services.

Visit <https://www.sdstatefair.com/> for more information on the State Fair.

Heading to the South Dakota State Fair?

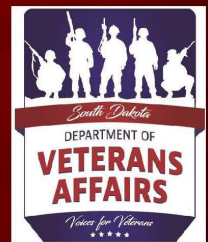
**VISIT OUR BOOTH - #5A  
EXPO BUILDING**

Staff from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be at the South Dakota State Fair all week. Look for us in the Expo Building (Booth# 5A). This team will be able to update veterans on state and federal benefits, programs, and services.



## GOING TO THE SD STATE FAIR? REMEMBER TO STOP IN AND THANK OUR TROOPS

Throughout the week fairgoers are encouraged to stop in at the Prostrullo Motors Building (just west of Flag Avenue and 2nd Street) and sign a "thank you" sign for the troops. After the Fair, the signs will be sent to several South Dakota National Guard deployed troops (the 109<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group, the 1/112<sup>th</sup> Aviation, and the 216<sup>th</sup> Fire Fighters) along with the photos.



## REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED WEAR RED!

On Friday, September 1, SD State Fairgoers are encouraged to wear red in support of our troops deployed. At 1:30 pm (CT) everyone wearing red is asked to meet at the Northwestern Energy Freedom Stage to take a group photo that will be sent to the troops.



# WEBSTER PATRIOT HOUSE

The American Heroes Outdoors - Patriot House will be back in north-east South Dakota this coming ice fishing season and Day County Veterans Service Officer Jeff Nelson wants to get the word out to his fellow South Dakota veterans regarding this outstanding fishing opportunity.

Jeff not only serves as the Day County Veterans Service Officer, but he is also on the board of directors for the non-profit organization American Heroes Outdoors. The American Heroes Outdoors TV show documents the journey, commitment, struggle, and healing of our nations' service men and women, showcasing their stories through therapeutic participation in America's great outdoors.

With his position on the board of Directors, Jeff was able to get a Patriot House fish house donated for veterans to use in the Webster area...and it's all free.

The Webster Patriot House is an 18-foot deluxe Ice Castle fish house that sleeps up to three people and comes with free bait, gas for the generator, and propane for the heater. The Webster Patriot House is also fully-equipped with fishing rods, tip-ups, tackle, refrigerator, microwave, gas stove top, electric fireplace/heater, TV, DVD player, Vexilar fish finder, and ice auger.

This summer, Jeff was also able to get American Heroes Outdoors, the Webster American Legion, and Dave's Marine to purchase a Garmin LiveScope ice fishing package for veterans to use during their fishing get-a-way at the Patriot House. If sleeping at the Patriot House, guests will need to bring their own bedding.

When the Veteran arrives in Webster, Jeff will meet them at the local bait shop, escort the veteran to the fish house, and walk them through how to operate the fish house.

Veterans can reserve the Patriot House online for one or multiple days on the ice. If you have veterans that wish to reserve the Patriot House, have them visit the American Heroes Outdoors - Patriot House Project website where they can start reserving their dates the first week of December.

Typically, the Webster Patriot House is on the ice and available for use from January 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of February, but these dates are very dependent on local ice conditions. The Webster Patriot House is a fantastic way for veterans, along with their families and friends, to spend some time on the ice together, relax, and enjoy some of South Dakota's finest fishing opportunities...all for free.

<https://patriothouseproject.com/>

<https://www.americanheroesoutdoors.com/>



Codington County VSO Todd Rose enjoying his visit to the House, along with Matt Baumgarn and Jeff Nelson.



# VA EXTENDS PACT ACT DEADLINE

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that veterans and survivors who apply (or submit their intent to file) for PACT Act benefits by 11:59 PM (ET) on Monday, August 14, 2023, will be eligible to have their benefits backdated to August 10, 2022 – the day that President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. This is an extension from the original deadline of August 9, 2023.

The VA has made this decision out of an abundance of caution after experiencing technical difficulties with VA.gov/PACT in recent days. Specifically, due to extremely high demand, some veterans who have sought to submit their intent to file, on line, for PACT Act benefits have received error messages while doing so. Despite these messages, the VA has successfully logged every one of these intents to file – meaning that every veteran or survivor who has received an error message while applying for PACT Act benefits can consider their intent to file complete. The VA is working to contact these individuals to confirm directly to them that their intent to file will be honored and their effective date protected. Most importantly, no veteran or survivor will miss out on a single day of benefits due to this issue.



The VA reports that they have resolved nearly all of the technical issues with VA.gov/PACT. As of Wednesday night, less than one tenth of one percent of attempts to submit an “intent to file” that day had resulted in an error message. This percentage is down from about 18% on Tuesday. Additionally, they have had a high volume of calls to the VA call centers throughout this week, and they are working to decrease abnormally long call center wait times. They continue to work on these issues.

Throughout the past day, the VA has sent out communications from all channels to reassure veterans and survivors that they would not miss out on their earned benefits due to this issue. They put an emergency banner on the VA website to tell veterans and survivors that their intents to file will be honored. They changed the intent to file error message to confirm that, despite the error message, the intent to file has been saved. Finally, they communicated with veterans directly on social media, via email, and through coordination with Congressional leaders and veterans service organizations. All of this messaging was updated to reflect the extended deadline for veterans and survivors to apply for benefits backdated to August 10, 2022.

# RAPID CITY CBOC GRAND OPENING

VABHHCS will host grand opening ceremonies for the new Rapid City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) on Thursday, August 17th at 1:00 pm (MT). The address for the CBOC is 2165 Promise Road.

The building of the new Rapid City VA clinic was a partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), and Dream Design International. The new clinic will offer the same services currently offered at their Fifth Street clinic building but will include an expanded laboratory, imaging (x-ray/MRI/CT), physical therapy, and women's health services. The new CBOC will allow VA Black Hills to serve veterans in an outpatient setting in a building designed to deliver community-based care.

The grand opening will include messaging presentations, a ribbon cutting, tours of the new clinic, and refreshments. Guest

speakers include: Lisa Curnes- Director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System; Robert McDivitt- Network Director for VA VISN 23; Hani Shafai, CEO of Dream Design International; Denise Maes, GSA Regional Administrator for the Rocky Mountain Region; and South Dakota Congressman Dusty Johnson.

Features of the new facility can be found on the next page.



GRAND

## RAPID CITY VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC



**August 17, 2023 at 1 p.m.**  
2165 Promise Road, Rapid City, SD



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Black Hills Health Care System



**DreamDesign**  
INTERNATIONAL

# RAPID CITY CBOC FEATURES

Some of the features at the new Rapid City CBOC include:

- Over 45,000 square footage.
- 120 FTEs.
- Over 340 parking spaces.
- Zero entry loading and unloading zone in front of the building.
- No curb, easy to access for wheelchairs.
- Covered drop-off location to protect from weather elements.
- Grew from five to eight PACT (Patient Aligned Care Teams).
- Increased number of examination rooms.
- “Cutting edge” biofeedback services to provide evidence-based treatment for our veterans suffering from PTSD and Military Sexual Trauma (MST).
- Expanded diagnostic services.
- Mobile MRIs and CT scans.
- Physical therapy gym.
- Rapid onsite lab results.
- Designed to feel comfortable and inviting, and it accommodates a separate entrance for patients in need of privacy.
- Design is guided by sustainability and energy efficiency principles, including heating and cooling the facility using a geothermal field, and is slated to achieve a Green Globes rating.

Services offered at the new VA clinic will include primary care, mental health care, physical therapy, audiology, pharmacy, lab services, and women’s care.

The clinic broke ground on July 1, 2021, and will serve patients beginning this summer.

# RIDE FOR MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS

Isaac Full, Potter County Veterans Service Officer and veterans outreach coordinator for Pheasants Forever Inc and Quails Forever, continues to build opportunities for military members, veterans and their families to enjoy the outdoors.

In February of 2022, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks and Pheasants Forever created a partnership to hire a

statewide R3 Outreach Coordinator, with a focus on the state's military, veterans, and their families. The focus is creating outreach opportunities through South Dakota to get military members, veterans, and their families into the outdoors. This partnership has provided great opportunities across South Dakota.

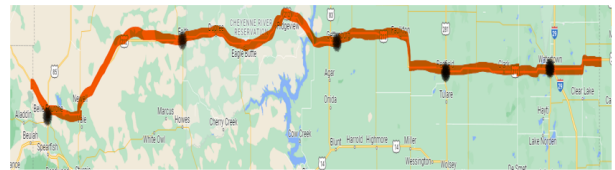
Last year, they hosted 42 participants within nine programs. These ranged from long weekend experiences that got veterans on their first pheasant hunts or got veterans back into upland bird hunting, to in classroom presentation type learning experiences. All these programs were aimed at providing a base line of knowledge and building confidence to walk away from these events and pursue their outdoor passions with support.

Full will be conducting a South Dakota Ride for Military Mental Health and Veteran Suicide Awareness September 11-17 and will be riding through Watertown, Redfield, Gettysburg, Faith, and Belle Fourche. The schedule is posted above. Take time to join Full on this tour and learn more about using the outdoors to mitigate mental hardships from service time.

For more details on the ride or outdoor activities for veterans, please reach out to Isaac Full at 817.701.6707 or [ifull@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:ifull@pheasantsforever.org).

## South Dakota Ride for Military Mental Health and Veteran Suicide Awareness Sept 11-17-2023

- Please join me, fellow veterans, and military and veterans support organizations in open conversation focused on how we can provide better support for our communities Military Members, and Veterans.
- There are approximately 65,000 Service members and veterans in South Dakota. In 2022, South Dakota ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for death by suicide. There are ways we can build a community of care and support for our nation's heroes, who selflessly gave of themselves for the preservation of our freedoms.
- Please join in raising our voices across South Dakota.



|               |              |                   |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Watertown     | Sept-11 5PM  | McKinley Park     |
| Redfield      | Sept-12 5PM  | City/Packard Park |
| Gettysburg    | Sept-13 5PM  | City Park         |
| Faith         | Sept-15 12PM | City Park         |
| Belle Fourche | Sept-16 5PM  | Museum            |

Contact Isaac Full 817-701-6707, or  
[ifull@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:ifull@pheasantsforever.org) for more details.





# **CROW CREEK TRIBE**

## **VETERAN STAND**

## **DOWN**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023**

**9:00 AM TO 3:00PM**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING IN FORT THOMPSON**

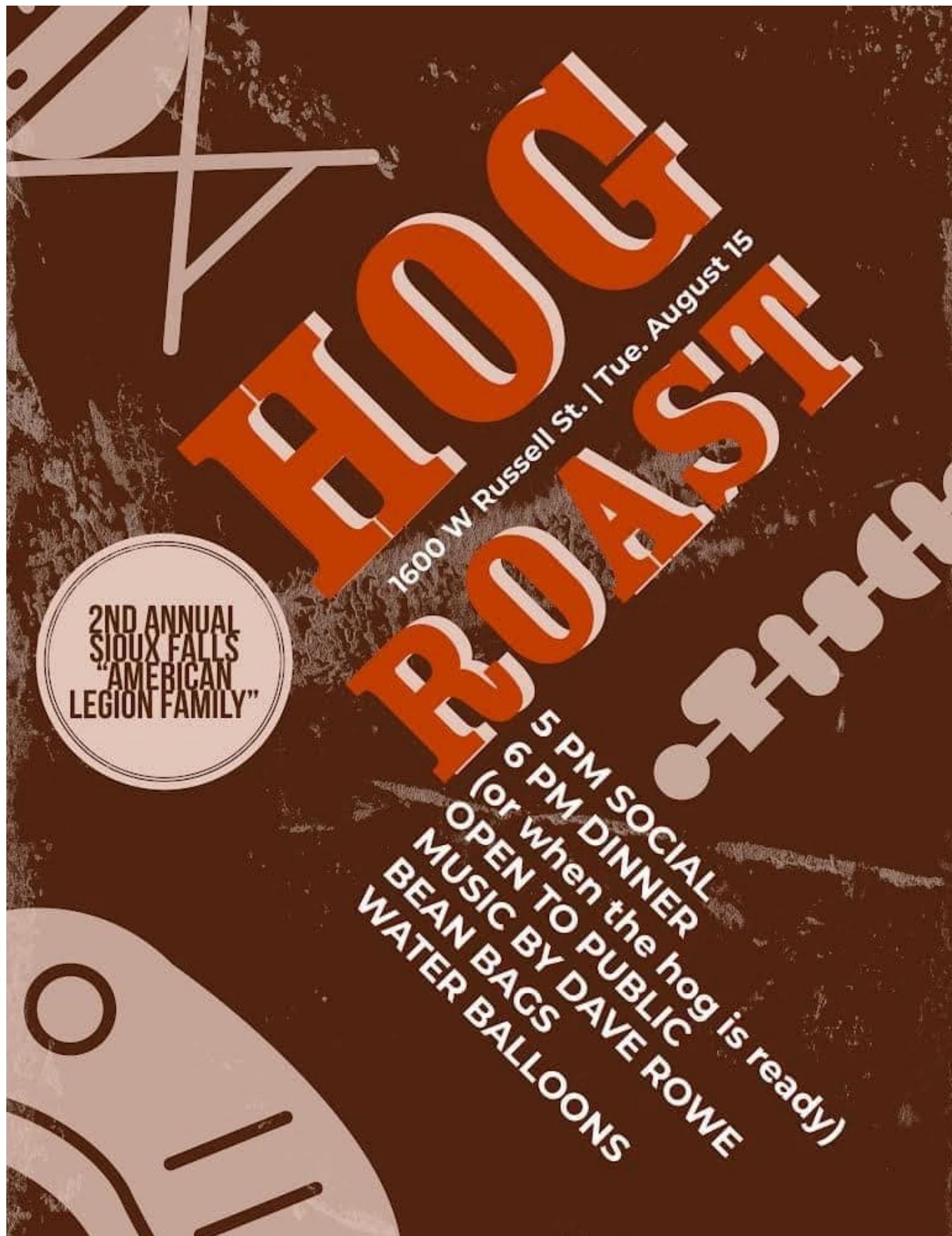
**GUEST SPEAKER 11:00 TO 12:00**

**INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS**

**PAMPERING BOOTHS**

**DOOR PRIZES/REFRESHMENTS/NOON MEAL**

**ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

# Horse Event at Rock Ranch

## EVENT DETAILS:

Saturday  
September 9, 2023  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Caregivers and their  
Veterans welcome!  
Caregivers can bring their  
Veterans but is not required.

## TO REGISTER:

Space is limited. Registration is on a first  
come, first serve basis. Contact your  
Caregiver Support Case Manager or  
Erika Jacobson at 605-336-3230 ext. 7720  
to register. A signed waiver is required  
to be completed before the event.

## TO LEARN MORE:



<https://www.riderockranch.org/>



355 40th Ave  
Hills, MN 56138

## EDUCATIONAL GROUP

This equine-assisted learning  
experience will be 100% on the ground-  
no riding. Horses are great teachers,  
and we will explore the topics of self-  
care as well as moving from surviving  
to thriving while observing and  
experience time with horses with  
guidance of an experience facilitation  
team.

## ABOUT ROCK RANCH

Founded in 2016 by the LaRock Family,  
Rock Ranch provides horsemanship  
training, riding lessons, senior  
programming, and mental health  
counseling. They are members of PATH  
International (Professional Association of  
Therapeutic Horsemanship) and certified in  
Eagala (Equine Assisted Growth and  
Learning Association).

VA  
Caregiver  
Support

# MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER

Now, who doesn't love a good donut?

This new Midwest Honor Flight and Flyboy Donuts partnership is a win/win collaboration that will benefit our veterans traveling on a Mission to Washington, DC. Not to mention, the great tasting donuts you will receive.

You can get your Flyboy Donuts punch card at the Midwest Honor Flight Store—<https://www.midwesthonorflight.store/product/flyboy-donuts-punchcard/106?cp=true&sa=true&sbp=false&q=false>.

Stop in at one of the locations posted below to use your punch card.

57th & Western (5005 S Western Avenue—Suite 190—Sioux Falls)

East 10th & Bahnson (3600 East 10th Street—Sioux Falls)

57th & Sycamore (4700 E 57th Street—Sioux Falls)

41st & Sertoma (3221 S Sertoma Avenue—Sioux Falls)





# 21st. ANNUAL SHOW & SHINE

## SIOUX FALLS VA

'23

## CAR SHOW

### August 19, 2023

2501 W. 22nd Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Free Community Event
- Registration 9-11 a.m.
- Door Prizes
- Food Trucks
- El Riad Fife Drum Corps
- LHS Marine JROTC Color Guard
- Live Music
- Family Friendly Activities

Questions?

[Kelly.Riedel@va.gov](mailto:Kelly.Riedel@va.gov)  
605-336-3230, Ext. 7791

# STATE VETERANS HOME UPDATE

A big “SHOUT OUT” and “THANK YOU” to all the riders that participated in the American Legion Riders Post 71 annual “Fall River Freedom Ride.”

Although none of the residents donned the leather and went for a ride, they sure enjoyed seeing all the bikes as they lined up in front of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

No plans, no maps, no rules, no GPS—just ride because it’s “ride o’clock somewhere!”



The 8th annual Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival will be held in Hot Springs August 25-27.  
During the Glow Around Town segment of the festival, three balloons will be staged at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

*8th Annual*

HOT SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**FALL RIVER HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL**

**AUG 25-27, 2023**

FREE ADMISSION

Up to 30 Balloons\*  
(At Hot Springs Municipal Airport)

Glow Around Town (At Dusk)\*

Walk-In Balloon (At Mammoth Site)\*

Free Kid Zone (At Centennial Park)\*

Live Music (At Centennial Park)\*

Vendors (At Centennial Park)\*

Young Eagles: Free Airplane flights for youth ages 8-17 (w/ parental consent)  
Hot Springs Municipal Airport  
9am-11am  
For more Details Call:  
(605) 431-9609

Schedule a Balloon Ride:  
970-420-4109 or email  
tamieshrum5@gmail.com

**\*ALL events are weather permitting**

Thank you to our Sponsors:

**McGraw-Hill** **STAY USA** **United Rentals**  
HOTEL & SUITES

**ACE Hardware** **gray** **EVERGREEN** **THE MAMMOTH SITE** **EVANS PLUNGE**  
KEVIN KOTA

Scan for Full Schedule:

Or visit [fallriverballoonfest.com](http://fallriverballoonfest.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 10-11—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Sioux Falls Convention Center  
Aug 15—2nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 “Chip in for Vets” Golf Tournament—Elmwood Golf Course—(2604 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Shotgun Start at 9:00 am (CT)  
Aug 15—2nd Annual Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 Family Hog Roast—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Social at 5:00 pm (CT) and Dinner at 6:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 17—Rapid City CBOC Grand Opening—(2165 Promise Road)—Rapid City—1:00 pm (MT)  
Aug 19—SFVAHCS Show and Shine  
Aug 25—Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Veterans Stand Down—Community Building—Fort Thompson—9:00 am (CT)  
Aug 26—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LTC Gordon J. Lippman—St. Rose of Lima Community Hall—(305 Pine Street)—Hill City—2:00 pm (MT)  
Aug 27—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SP5 John P. Beckers—VFW (Main Street)—Burke—2:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 28—Barrel House Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight  
Aug 31—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair  
Aug 31—Sept 4—SD State Fair  
Sep 1—Wear Red Day at the State Fair—Group Photo—NWE Freedom Stage—Huron—1:30 pm (CT)  
Sep 2—727th/DAV Poker Run—Dacotah Bank Center—(824 32nd Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)  
Sep 4—State Offices Closed  
Sep 5—7—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls  
Sep 8-10—PVA North Central Chapter Trap shoot—Crooks Gun Club  
Sep 9—SFVAHCS Horse Outing—Rock Ranch—(461 40th Avenue)—Hills, MN—10:00 am (CT)  
Sep 13-16—Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon  
Sep 15—SF Area Veterans Council POW/MIA Ceremony—Veterans Memorial Park—(1021 W. Bailey)—Sioux Falls—6:30 pm (CT)  
Sep 16—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LT Peter H. Monfore—Community Hall—(605 8th Street)—Springfield—2:00 pm (CT)  
Sep 18—Texas Roadhouse Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—(Sioux Falls and Sioux City)—4:00 pm—9:00 pm (CT)  
Sep 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—VFW Post 1273—(420 N. Main Street)—Rapid City—9:00 am (MT)  
Sep 26—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 16  
Oct 7—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—WO1 Roger S. Cameron—Community Building—(311 W. Main)—Pierpont—2:30 pm (CT)  
Oct 7—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
Oct 9—State Offices Closed  
Oct 10—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 17  
Oct 14—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Thomas M. Martin—Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)  
Oct 21—Elvis Night/50’s Dance Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls  
Nov 4—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)  
Nov 10—State Offices Closed  
Nov 13—Barrel House Day of Giving for SDVC Wreaths Across America

# UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Nov 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—(1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls—  
9:00 am (CT)  
Nov 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—DAV Headquarters—(1519 W. 51st Street)—  
Sioux Falls—12:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 16—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Northeast  
Nov 17—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—  
Pierre  
Nov 17—MINGO (Music Bingo) Fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Severance Brewing Co.—(701 N. Phillips Ave-  
nue—Suite 110)—Sioux Falls—6:00–9:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 18—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—American Legion Post 22—(818 E. St Patrick  
Street)—Rapid City  
Nov 23—State Offices Closed  
Dec 5—Governor’s Budget Address—State Capitol—1:00 pm  
Dec 16—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux  
Falls—11:00 am (CT)  
Dec 25—State Offices Closed

## 2024 Events

Jan 9—Governor’s State of the State Address—State Capitol—1:00 pm  
Jan 10—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—  
2:00 pm (CT)  
Jan 10—SDDVA and South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre  
Street)—Pierre— 5:30 pm (CT)  
Feb 16—18—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Deadwood  
Jun 20—23—American Legion State Conference—Pierre  
Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—  
11:00 am (CT)

## 2025 Events

Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma  
Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron  
Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—  
11:00 am (CT)

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>  
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-8242  
E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

